

Major Funding Concerns for North Carolina's Crime Victim Services

Decreased VOCA funding may reduce services to NC victims of crime

What Is the U.S. Victims of Crime Act?

The Victims of Crime Act, or VOCA, provides a critical funding source for programs that support crime victims in North Carolina.

The U.S. Congress passed the Victims of Crime Act in 1984, establishing a Crime Victims Fund that helps direct-services organizations across the country support millions of crime survivors. Federal dollars, distributed to each state, support organizations including:

- domestic violence shelters
- rape crisis centers
- programs for family members of homicide victims
- child abuse and advocacy centers
- fraud and financial crime services
- elder abuse and exploitation responses

How Is It Funded?

The Criminal Victims Fund is financed by federal criminal fines, fees, penalties and special assessments – not taxpayer dollars.

What Services Are Funded?

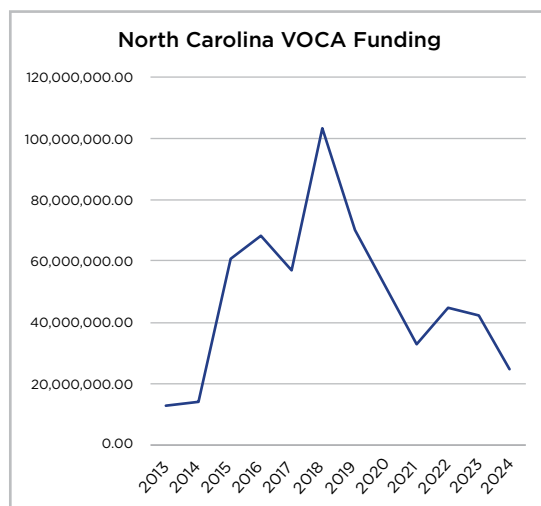
Victim assistance grants fund nonprofit organizations and government agencies that provide services directly to victims. This may include crisis intervention, emergency shelter, transportation, counseling and other victim support services.

Crime victim compensation funds allow the state to reimburse certain out-of-pocket expenses paid by victims of crime and their families. Expenses may include medical costs, counseling, lost wages and funeral expenses.

What Is the Problem with VOCA's Crime Victims Fund?

Funding levels are dropping. Fines, fees and penalties resulting from action by US Attorneys' offices are deposited into the VOCA Crime Victims Fund, and this funding resource has fallen significantly.

Victim services providers cannot make up this difference through local fundraising alone.



- In 2018, NC received \$103 million.
- In 2023, NC received only \$42 million.
- In 2024, NC is projected to receive only \$23 million.

What Can I Do?

- ✓ Educate your neighbors and your elected officials.
- ✓ Support local programs with volunteer time, money and donated goods.
- ✓ Help direct-services organizations identify new funding sources.

Learn more about VOCA from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Victims of Crime. ovc.ojp.gov



Governor's Crime Commission
NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY